ORIGIN/ACTION		
NEA-5		
RM/R 1	REP 1	AF
ARA	EUR 5	FE
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AGR	COM 10	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR 5
ARMY 5	CIA 10	NAVY 5
OSD 16	USIA 8	NSA 3

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

XR

POL FR-JORDAN
POL 2-3 ARAB-FR

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A-432 NO. | CONFIDENTIAL | AIR PRIORITY HANDLING INDICATOR

595

1964 MAR 22 PM 2 11

TO : WASHINGTON

INFO: TEL AVIV BEIRUT DAMASCUS BAGHDAD JIDDA CAIRO KUWAIT JERUSALEM, PARIS, LONDON

ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION BRANCH

EXCISE

FROM : Amembassy AMMAN

DATE: March 18, 1964

SUBJECT : French Position in Jordan

REF : CA-8895, March 4, 1964

France and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan re-established diplomatic relations in November, 1962, after a break, due to the Suez crisis of 1956 and the Algerian War, which lasted six years. At the present time, the French Embassy in Amman is modest in size, consisting of an Ambassador, Counsellor, Second Secretary, and Attache. (There is, in addition, a Cultural Attache, and the French are intending to open a new Cultural Center in Amman shortly.) The French diplomats are reasonably active, but not to the extent that many Jordanians have taken much notice of them.

The tempo of commercial relations between France and Jordan has never been particularly high. It has apparently increased slightly since November, 1962, but the exact extent must await release of Jordanian trade figures for 1963.* These are expected shortly and will be forwarded to the Department when available. In 1962, France exported approximately JD 1.1 million (JD 1 = $2.80) worth of commodities, primarily iron and steel articles, glassware and textiles to Jordan. Jordanian exports to France during 1962 were negligible.

A possible French Government guarantee in connection with the financing of the Amman Airport extension project, mentioned in the referenced instruction, remains the only example of French economic assistance to Jordan currently under consideration, insofar as the Embassy is aware. The French Ambassador has been pushing this project energetically if not always entirely ethically.

Group 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals, not automatically declassified.

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n.a.f. 3/27/64 RM/R

REVIEWED BY: Dorothy Peters DATE: 3/2/84
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
Does not qualify for XDS EXEMPTION
TS AUTH: J Rourke DATE: ODR 5/16/84
REASON(S): 1.5 (b) (d)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE

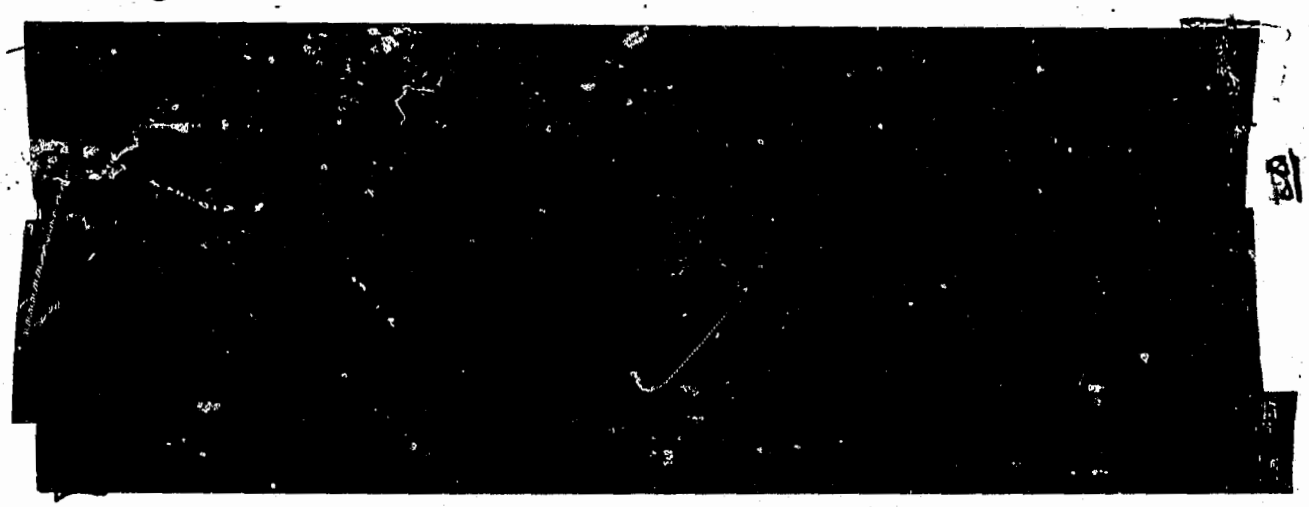
FORM DS-323 4-62

Drafted by: PHGray:oh/at 3/17/64

Contents and Classification Approved by: RBHoughton

Clearances: DCM:GWLewis

The relative lack of influence exerted by the French Embassy locally is in contrast to the prestige and stature of DE GAULLE among Jordanians, who, despite the French leader's support for Israel, admire his strength of character and his willingness to embarrass the United States by taking an independent position on world issues. Many influential Jordanians took considerable pleasure in the discomfiture felt by the United States as the result of French recognition of Red China.



The entire picture might change suddenly, however, were de Gaulle in fact, to abandon France's special association with Israel in favor of a new association with the Arab states. On March 16, the Jordanian press carried an unattributed news release from Paris to the effect that de Gaulle was about to implement a plan for strengthening Franco-Arab relations, the first step of which would be to suspend all French arms shipment to Israel. De Gaulle would then visit Cairo and other Arab capitals. Should the French President decide on such a course of action, there is little doubt but that French prestige and influence in Jordan, as well as elsewhere in the Arab World, would rise considerably.

For the Ambassador:

Philip H. Gray

Philip H. Gray
Third Secretary of Embassy

*Since the completion of this airgram, we have been informed that French exports to Jordan during the past year rose moderately, reaching a value of JD 1.3 million (JD 1 = $2.80), which represents an increase of JD 150,000 (or about 12 percent) over 1962 exports. Jordanian exports to France during 1963 were again negligible.